

REMARKS

Claims 1-25 are pending and under consideration in the above-identified application. in the Office Action of November 23, 2010, claims 1-8 and 11-25 were rejected. Claims 9-10 were found allowable and claims 15-17 and 19 were merely objected to, but would be allowed if re-written in independent form.

With this Amendment, claims 1, 9, 15, 16, 19 and 24-25 are amended.

I. Claim Objections

Claims 1, 9, 15 and 24-25 were objected to, but were otherwise deemed to contain allowable subject matter.

With this Amendment, claims 1, 9, 15, and 24-25 are amended taking into consideration the Examiner's comments. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of this objection.

II. 35 U.S.C. § 102 Anticipation Rejection of Claims and 35 U.S.C. § 103 Obviousness Rejection of Claims

Claims 1-2, 7-8, 13-18 and 20-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by *Mukasa* (U.S. Pat. Pub. No. 2005/0121171).

Claims 11-12 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Mukasa*.

Claims 3-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Mukasa* in view of *Ziada* (U.S. Pat. No. 5,798,465) ("*Ziada*").

Applicant respectfully traverses all of these rejections.

Mukasa is an improper reference under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) and 35 U.S.C. 103(a). *Mukasa* has an earliest effective filing date of November 3, 2004. However the present application claims priority to Japanese Application 2004-078030 filed on March 18, 2004, which fully

supports the claims of the present application. Applicants will be submitting certified English language translations of this applications to perfect its claim of priority and to obtain the full benefit of the earlier Japanese filing date.

Therefore, because the earliest possible effective filing date of *Mukasa* is November 3, 2004 which is later than the March 18, 2004 effective filing date of the present application, *Mukasa* is an improper reference. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of this rejection.

III. Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that all claims are clearly allowable over the cited prior art, and respectfully requests early and favorable notification to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

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